

## Drop a Line

By LINDY BLAISDELL



Fluke are in the bay. John at Snug Harbor Tackle should have chubs by this weekend. Live chubs are the best bait for fluke. Squid (even frozen) is my 2nd choice with sea worms and jigs close behind.

Stripers are still found throughout the bay. There are lots of runts feeding around the docks during the high evening tides. Flyfishermen are catching small ones all along the Duxbury coastline from the launching ramp south to Standish Shore.

The commercial season starts this week. There are still lots of big bass around for everyone. If you can get a commercial fisherman to talk, they would never disclose their hot spots, however, they may hint at trying some night fishing. Stripers are like most game fish—they feel more secure feeding under the stars than in direct sunlight. Try some after supper plugging with a popper or needlefish. Rattling Chugs Bugs and Zara Spooks are 2 fresh water plugs that have been redesigned with galvy hooks in hopes of catching on with the salt water fishermen. I know they work in fresh water on both bass and pickerel.

Bluefish are also being caught from Powder Point Bridge. Most of the blues are small, some going up to 5 and 6 pounds. Bass are also being caught from the river banks around Norwell's Union Street Bridge. There are several access points along both the Norwell and Marshfield river banks for fly fishermen or bank casters, both up and down stream from the bridge.

A few interesting facts about commercial fishing: 20 years ago the average weight of a swordfish taken on a long line was 300 pounds. Today, the average is 65 pounds. Enough drift net is set in the Pacific Ocean each night to totally circle the globe. Thousands of sea birds are drowned each season in Japanese drift nets. The shrimp fisheries kill 10 pounds of juvenile fish for each pound of shrimp netted. Seems there is no such thing as selective harvesting.

Fog and rains put the skids on several fishing trips last week. My son Brett used his prize wining free trip on the Capt. John to land a 4 1/2 pound winter flounder—one of the largest winter flounder brought aboard any of the Capt. John boats in a long time. He got lucky not only in catching the fish but picking a calm bright day to go. That proves to me there is still a lot of luck in fishing.